

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add an ABSTRACT on a separate page as follows:

ABSTRACT

The article comprises at least one product and a flexible packaging film forming a tight enclosure for the enclosed product or products, in addition to an amount of gas. The film has a pre-cut line. The amount of gas is chosen in such a way that a consumer can grasp the article and compress it, whereby the pressure of the gas can be increased to such an extent that a deformation on said article results in instantaneous breaking of the film on the greater part of the pre-cut line.

On page 1, line 5, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, line 15, insert the following heading.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 3, after line 37, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 4, line 10, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 13-18 of the English language translation of published international application (WO/00/59801) as follows:

There is known, for example from document ~~EP-0 398 447 EP-0 357 84~~ in figure 6, an item comprising a confectionery product packaged in a flexible film forming an enclosure containing the product. The film has a precut line. Thus, the film can easily be torn by the consumer along the precut line to gain rapid access to the product. This type of packaging is advantageous. However, there is always a search to allow even swifter and simpler access to the product.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 37 to page 9, line 28 of the English translation of the amended sheet of international application (WO/00/59801) as follows:

Each slave spool is then used to package the bars 26 on a machine as illustrated in figure 6, of a general "form, fill and seal" type which is well known per se. The film 4 travels from left to right, adopting the shape of a U-shaped channel under the action of a shaper 32 which, for greater clarity, has been depicted some distance from the film with which it is normally in contact. The shaper 32 here is external, the film being pressed against an inside face of the shaper to give the enclosure its characteristic shape. The bars 26 drop into the not-yet-shaped film 4 upstream of the shaper 32. Sealing rollers 31 seal the film onto itself along its longitudinal edges 6. The shaper 32 in the known way gives the profile of the enclosure a voluminous shape, after the two bars 26 have been introduced into the enclosure. Wheels ~~31~~ 34 carrying sealing and cutting tools and extending on each side of the film seal and cut the tube formed by the film 4 at the transverse ends 10 to seal them and separate the finished items 2 from one another. A spotting member ~~34~~ 35, known per se, arranged upstream of the rollers 31, reads marks 36 on the film to make sure that the cut by the wheels ~~31~~ 34 is made at the correct location. The amount of gas trapped in the enclosure on this occasion depends in particular on the shape of the shaper 32 and on the conditions under which the bars 26 are introduced (drop height, etc.). It will be noted that the deliberate trapping of a certain amount of gas in a sealed package is known per se.